

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system for ordering items ~~comprising a database having a~~  
~~various kinds of masters, and~~ comprising:  
  
a server ~~which controls~~ for controlling data communication with a plurality of  
terminals via a network ~~and performs extracting or storing to the various kinds of masters in~~  
~~response to the terminal,~~  
  
~~wherein the a~~ a database accessible by the server comprising:  
  
a merchandise master which stores information on items offered from dealers  
to a customer ~~customers by each~~ according to an item number unique to ~~[[the]]~~ each  
item, and  
  
a merchandise assortment (MD) related master which stores a list of traded  
items among the items stored in the merchandise master agreed upon between the  
customer and dealer ~~beforehand as the customer-specific~~ MD related information  
~~[[by]]~~ according to each purchasing unit of the customer and ~~[[by]]~~ each dealer who  
offers the item to the customer, and  
  
a terminal for submitting to the server an ordering request for ordering at least one  
item from a user who belongs to a purchasing unit,  
  
wherein the server ~~comprising~~ comprises an item specific order controller for  
specifying, for each item in the ordering request, a dealer who offers ~~[[each]]~~ the item ~~in the~~  
~~ordering request~~, based on the MD related information of ~~[[each]]~~ the purchasing unit to  
which the user belongs. ~~unit, when it receives an ordering request for ordering one or more~~  
~~items from the terminal used by a user who belongs to the purchasing unit.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the server further ~~comprising~~  
comprises:

a deliverer specific controller for specifying a deliverer who, when the ordering request is received from the terminal used by ~~[[a]]~~ the user in the purchasing unit, delivers an item to the user separately for each item ~~number~~ in the ordering request based on the MD related information ~~for each of the purchasing unit~~ to which the user belongs, and

a dealer data outputting controller for outputting, to ~~[[the]]~~ a terminal used by the deliverer, ~~[[the]]~~ dealer data used for delivering the item to the user from the deliverer specified for the item ~~to the user~~ in the name of the dealer specified for ~~[[each]]~~ the item.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the MD related master stores the MD related information ~~for each of the dealers~~ in a state in which item numbers ~~purchased by the customer~~ are not duplicated by a plurality of dealers.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~if the item number to be purchased by the customer is duplicated by a plurality of dealers~~, the MD related master ~~[[has]]~~ further includes a dealer decision item ~~items such as~~ comprising at least one of delivery time, price, ~~[[or]]~~ and dealer priority rank for specifying a dealer according to ~~[[the]]~~ each item number,

wherein the item specific ordering controller ~~comprising~~ comprises a dealer duplication ~~[[time]]~~ specification function, ~~and if the item number of an item requested for ordering is duplicated by dealers when the order request is received by the user who belongs~~

Serial No. 09/933,119  
Docket No. KYO003-US  
LIN.001

~~to the purchasing unit, the function specifies for specifying a dealer for [[the]] an item in the~~  
~~ordering request according to [[the]] a dealer decision item of [[the]] an item number of the~~  
~~item if the item number of the item is duplicated by dealers.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the item specific ordering controller ~~comprising~~ comprises an approval standard specific ordering control function ~~for the case where the~~ for applying an approval standard ~~on ordering items~~ is determined by the customer, ~~when one or more items are selected by a user of the customer, and if the approval standards of the selected items and the items to be added newly are different, the function prompting ordering grouped by the same approval standard without accepting the addition of new items~~ to each of the at least one item in the ordering request.

6. (Currently Amended) An application service provider (ASP) system (~~ASP~~) for ~~issuing/receiving~~ issuing and receiving orders which ~~provide~~ provides an order ~~issuing/receiving~~ issuing and receiving function to ~~the terminals of one or more users who belong to the~~ a terminal of a user who belongs to a customer's purchasing unit of a customer, and ~~provide~~ provides an order ~~issuing/receiving~~ issuing and receiving function to the ~~terminals of a plurality of dealers who offer items~~ a terminal of a dealer who offers an item identified by an item number to the customer,

the ASP system comprising:

a database storing ~~various kinds of masters such as the~~ a merchandise master where information on ~~items~~ at least one item is stored, and

a server ~~which is~~ connected to the ~~browsing~~ terminals via a network, ~~such as the Internet and extracts or stores~~ for extracting and storing data of the various kinds of masters in the database in response to requests at the ~~browsing~~ terminals,

wherein the server ~~including~~ comprises:

an MD maintenance controller for ~~provides~~ providing to the ~~dealers' browsing terminals~~ dealer terminal a function for maintaining the MD related information which ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a list of items among the items registered in the merchandise master offered to the customer pre-determined for the ~~customer's~~ purchasing unit and the dealer,

an MD storing controller ~~which controls storing, online or offline~~ for storing to the database~~[[,]]~~ the MD related information maintained by the dealer as ~~[[the]]~~ an MD related information master, and

a dealer specific controller ~~which provides~~ for providing to the user's ~~browsing user~~ terminal a function ~~which, in ordering one or more items from the terminal of a user who belongs to the purchasing unit, specifies~~ for specifying a dealer who sells the goods or service item for each item number when ordering at least one item from the user terminal by referring to the MD related information for ~~[[each]]~~ the purchasing unit to which the user ~~belong.~~ belongs.

7. (Currently Amended) The system in the claim 6, wherein the MD related information master is stored in a state in which no item number of the items purchased by the ~~customer's~~ purchasing unit is duplicated by the dealers.

Serial No. 09/933,119  
Docket No. KYO003-US  
LIN.001

8. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having a record medium for controlling ~~issuing/receiving~~ issuing and receiving orders by using a server of an ordering system, wherein the system ~~comprising~~ comprises a database which ~~records various kinds of masters such as the~~ stores a merchandise master for storing item related information, and the server ~~which~~ controls data communication with terminals via a network and performs data extraction from ~~[[or]]~~ and storing to the ~~various kinds of the masters~~ database upon request, the program ~~causes~~ causing the server to:

~~manages~~ manage the MD related information which ~~[[is]]~~ comprises one of the pre-determined items traded between customer and dealer pre-determined for each dealer who sells items to the customer ~~[[by]]~~ according to a ~~the customer's~~ purchasing unit~~[[,]]~~ of the customer; and

when a request of ordering ~~one or more items~~ at least one item submitted from a terminal used by a user who belongs to the purchasing unit, ~~identifies~~ identify for each item number a dealer who offers the ~~goods or service~~ item by referring to the MD related information for the purchasing unit.

9 – 21 (Canceled)

22. (New) The system of claim 5, wherein the approval standard specific ordering control function groups items having the same approval standards when the ordering request contains a plurality of items having different approval standards.

23. (New) A system for ordering items comprising:

a server for controlling data communication with at least one terminal via a network;  
a database accessible by the server comprising a merchandise master containing information on each of a plurality of items offered for sale by at least one dealer, and a merchandise assortment (MD) related master containing MD related information associating a purchasing unit with at least one dealer for at least one of the plurality of items contained in the merchandise master;

a terminal for submitting to the server an order request for ordering at least one item from a user belonging to a specified purchasing unit; and

an item specific order controller executable on the server for specifying a dealer for each of the at least one item in the ordering request based on MD related information retrieved from the MD related master corresponding to the specified purchasing unit of the user.

24. (New) The system of claim 23, further comprising a deliverer specific controller executable on the server for specifying a deliverer for each of the at least one item in the ordering request based on the MD related information retrieved from the merchandise assortment (MD) related master corresponding to the specified purchasing unit of the user.

25. (New) The system of claim 24, further comprising a dealer data outputting controller executable on the server for outputting to a terminal used by the specified deliverer dealer

data for delivering the at least one item in the ordering request to the user in the name of the specified dealer.

26. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein:

the MD related master further includes dealer decision items comprising at least one of delivery time, price, and dealer priority rank for specifying a dealer corresponding to each of the items; and

the item specific ordering controller comprises a dealer duplication specification function for specifying a dealer for an item in the ordering request according to the dealer decision items retrieved from the MD related master corresponding to the item when the item is offered by more than one dealer.

27. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the item specific ordering controller comprises an approval standard specific ordering control function for applying a pre-determined approval standard to the submitted ordering request and prompting the user when the ordering request deviates from the pre-determined approval standard.

28. (New) A system for processing orders comprising:

a server which is connected to at least one terminal via a network;

a database accessible by the server containing information corresponding to each of a plurality of items offered for sale by at least one dealer, item numbers corresponding to each of the plurality of items, and a plurality of MD related information, wherein each of the

plurality of MD related information associates at least one item from the plurality of items with a purchasing unit and a dealer; and

a dealer specific controller executable on the server for specifying a dealer for each item number by referring to the MD related information associated with the purchasing unit to which a user belongs.

29. (New) The system according to claim 28, wherein the server further comprises:

an MD maintenance controller executable on the server for enabling at least one dealer to maintain the MD related information; and

an MD storing controller for storing to the database the MD related information maintained by the dealer.

30. (New) A system for processing orders comprising:

a server connected to a plurality of terminals via a network;

a database accessible by the server, including:

a plurality of item numbers, each of the plurality of item numbers corresponding to an item offered for sale by one of a plurality of dealers, and

a plurality of merchandise assortment (MD) related information, each of the plurality of MD related information associating at least one item number with a purchasing unit and one of the plurality of dealers;

a terminal for submitting to the server an ordering request containing at least one item number from a user who belongs to a specified purchasing unit; and



Serial No. 09/933,119  
Docket No. KYO003-US  
LIN.001

an item specific ordering controller executable on the server for specifying a dealer for each item number in the ordering request based on MD related information retrieved from the database corresponding to the specified purchasing unit of the user.